



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: September 17, 2006
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Cooler Temperatures and Rain Usher in the Fall Season

Despite rainy conditions, producers found 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Fall continued to set in with light moisture across Washington. Rain halted potato harvest and slowed corn harvest in parts of the state. Growers were expecting high corn and potato yields. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Noble firs. Winter wheat seeding progressed.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 11% poor, 28% fair and 41% good. Cooler temperatures and increased precipitation helped pastures green up. Producers prepared for fall gathering of cattle off forestland. Shellfish growers geared up for an early harvest brought on by strong demand.

Fruit and Vegetables

Potato, broccoli, sweet corn and pumpkin harvest continued as cucumber harvest neared completion. Berry producers sold the last fruit of the season. Producers in the Skagit Valley began planting next year's tulip fields.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	30	45	25	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	20	42	36	2
Subsoil	7	32	61	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	42	43	0
Irrigation Water	3	4	93	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	1	25	70	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	100	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Planted	45	29	38	51
Barley Harvested	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	62	60	63	54
Corn Doughed	90	80	99	97
Corn Dented	70	55	78	72
Corn Mature	50	30	48	44
Corn Silage Harvested	30	25	32	30
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	60	48	55	44
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	94	90	97

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	20	78	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather continued the same with not much change in temperatures. Farmers continued to work on cutting and harvesting crops.

Grays Harbor: Cooler temperatures and sporadic rain showers provided a welcome relief to drought conditions across the rural landscape. Growers continued to irrigate sweet corn, as soil moisture remained very short. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Dairy producers began harvesting corn silage.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Temperatures in the 60's and rain showers were an indication that summer is changing into fall. Harvest began for sweet corn and silage corn.

Mason: Measurable amounts of precipitation finally fell over the weekend, but soil was so dry that infiltration was less than ideal. Pastures were greening up, but trees and shrubs were still struggling. The last of the berry crops were being sold at Farmer's Markets. Cut flowers were plentiful. This year's never-ending summer seems to have given way to fall. Carrots, potatoes, and onions at markets brought thoughts of canning and storage crops. With corn, cucumbers, and tomatoes still being harvested, it was definitely time to pull out the Ball Blue Book and get to work.

Mason (2nd Report): Cooler, drizzly weather gave some relief from the dry conditions that have persisted all summer. Less than 0.25 inches of rain fell, but wet weather was predicted for the next few days. The weather change will be welcome.

Pacific: Showers and light rain provided some relief from dry soil conditions for producers. Shellfish growers prepared for major harvest operations this fall, which will begin a month earlier than normal due to strong market conditions. Cranberry growers continued preparations for harvest, including repair of dike systems and equipment. Livestock were on hay due to the continued poor pasture conditions.

Pierce/South King: The rain was very welcomed in the South Puget Sound area. Crops were looking good. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 64 degrees and there was 0.3 inches of precipitation. Potato, broccoli, corn, and pumpkin harvests were still underway. Cucumber harvest was beginning to slow down and should be complete in about a week. Beet seed harvest began, and although the rain hampered the drying process, some producers were able to squeeze in a day or two of harvesting. Yields were well above a thousand pounds of beet seed per acre. Next year's tulip fields were beginning to be planted.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Harvest of crops continued. Temperatures have been cooler, but conditions were still pretty dry. There has been no crop damage due to the dry conditions.

Snohomish/King: Temperatures continued to settle in the 70's with cooler nights and little precipitation. Farmers were cutting corn silage and harvesting pumpkins. Berry producers were finished with harvest. Due to the drought conditions crops were not as good as last year.

Thurston: Ag producers welcomed isolated rain showers at the end of the week, which helped to reduce dry conditions. Some areas reported nearly half an inch of precipitation. Unfortunately, the soil was so dry the rain did not penetrate deep enough to alleviate the shortage of soil moisture. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Noble fir. Most growers finished top working Noble fir. Cooler temperatures and the rain greatly reduced the threat of wildfires. Home gardeners continued harvesting a bumper crop of plums, apples, and other tree fruit.

Thurston (2nd Report): Yellow jackets built bare combs instead of paper nests, which has never been seen before.

Whatcom: A couple of days of rainy conditions put a halt to the potato harvest and slowed the corn harvest.

Central

Benton: Spotty showers dropped 0.01 to 0.15 inches of rain during the week. Some wheat was planted and some of the crop looked good.

Grant: The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 30 percent harvested.

Kittitas: The first rain of fall, which was much heavier than expected, was received during the week. The rain caught some of the second cutting of timothy hay still in windrows. Sweet corn remained to be harvested. Cattlemen were preparing to bring home animals pastured

on forest land. Much of the new seeding of timothy hay was up.

Klickitat: Frost was received in some areas of the county. Some rain showers were received during the week. Late variety peaches continued to be harvested. Grape harvest will begin soon.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from eight degrees above normal to 12 degrees below normal, with 0.55 inches of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to a weather condition.



Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was complete for the most part. The crop was mostly emerged and in good condition.

Asotin/Garfield: A few storms brought cooler weather, but no rain—only wind. Drought conditions still prevailed.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding progressed throughout the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Seeding was 75 percent complete.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 79 degrees and the low was 26 degrees, with 0.1 inches of rain received. Very little precipitation left fields dead and dry. The hard freeze at night killed any new growth. Heavy overnight dew has helped a little. Livestock were putting on winter coats. Hogs were continuing to fatten up. Trees in the area were showing signs of stress due to the lack of precipitation.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Cooler weather was received during the week. Some precipitation was received. Fieldwork was performed in preparation for fall planting. Some winter wheat was being seeded mostly for summer

fallow. Some recrop was also planted. Pastures remained dry, but the cooler weather was helpful.

Stevens: The weather was cooler with a few rain sprinkles. The soil profile was very dry. The Bisbee mountain fire was brought under control. There were no other fires burning nearby.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures were welcomed. Some very brief scattered showers were received, but they were not measurable. Producers in the northern portion of the county were deep furrow seeding. The Columbia Complex fire continued to burn.

Whitman: Garbanzo bean harvest was coming to an end. Tillage work on stubble ground and field burning, when available, was being done. Diesel prices have producers concerned. More permits for stubble burning this fall will probably be made by cost-conscious producers. Winter wheat seeding on deep furrow ground in the western areas of the county was being done. The majority of the county won't begin seeding for at least another week. Soil moisture conditions were very dry. Rain is needed.

Weekly Weather Statistics

September 18, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	37	73	55	-4	35	-22	2	-5	0.13	-0.30	4	0.13	-0.85	13	4
Everett	47	72	56	-3	46	-14	2	-6	0.71	0.22	4	1.01	-0.12	89	5
Hoquiam	46	73	58	-3	59	-15	1	-13	0.10	-0.64	2	0.22	-1.37	14	3
Kelso	46	82	59	-2	67	-10	7	-13	0.33	-0.23	3	0.33	-0.92	26	3
Olympia	42	80	58	0	58	-1	3	-4	0.03	-0.48	2	0.05	-1.10	4	3
Sea-Tac	48	78	60	-2	68	-10	11	-7	0.41	-0.01	3	0.43	-0.54	44	4
Shelton	38	82	56	-5	46	-28	3	-15	0.73	0.13	2	0.83	-0.48	63	3
Tacoma	43	77	58	-3	59	-11	1	-13	0.06	-0.37	1	0.06	-0.96	6	1
Vancouver	41	85	61	0	75	1	18	0	0.12	-0.36	2	0.13	-0.95	12	3
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	39	89	60	1	69	1	23	4	0.06	-0.08	2	0.06	-0.26	19	2
Stampede Pass	38	76	51	3	30	9	8	8	0.94	0.16	4	0.97	-0.77	56	5
Wenatchee	44	88	61	-4	81	-19	29	-9	0.04	-0.03	1	0.04	-0.23	15	1
Yakima AP	33	89	57	-5	55	-27	20	-6	0.55	0.48	1	0.55	0.28	204	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	34	84	56	-2	47	-11	13	-2	0.20	-0.08	2	0.20	-0.48	29	2
Deer Park	27	85	51	-9	26	-44	1	-22	0.11	-0.10	1	0.11	-0.40	22	1
Spokane AP	35	84	56	-4	46	-24	14	-9	0.03	-0.14	1	0.03	-0.44	6	1
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	37	87	59	-7	64	-44	19	-25	0.28	0.17	2	0.28	0.07	133	2
Moses Lake	36	87	58	-8	59	-49	14	-30	0.05	-0.06	1	0.05	-0.16	24	1
Quincy	40	85	59	-4	69	-21	25	-7	0.05	-0.06	1	0.05	-0.25	17	1
Ritzville	34	85	57	-5	52	-25	16	-8	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	37	89	62	-7	85	-46	32	-31	0.09	0.02	2	0.09	-0.13	41	2
Pasco	37	90	60	-6	72	-33	17	-26	0.02	-0.05	2	0.02	-0.21	9	2
Pullman	28	84	55	-5	41	-23	9	-10	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.51	0	0
Whitman Miss.	38	90	58	-4	60	-24	11	-19	0.03	-0.11	1	0.05	-0.29	15	2
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	37	84	57	-4	58	-21	14	-11	0.00	-0.28	0	0.00	-0.68	0	0
Lewiston ID	40	87	63	-2	91	-14	37	-8	0.01	-0.17	1	0.01	-0.47	2	1

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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